

SAILORS NEEDED FOR OCCUPATIONAL SURVEY

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LT Susan Henson, *Naval Personnel Development Command Public Affairs*

NORFOLK, Va. - Sailors still have time to complete occupational task surveys concerning how they perform their Navy jobs and help shape the future of individual ratings and specialties. The Navy Manpower Analysis Center (NAVMAC), in coordination with the Naval Personnel Development Command's Learning Centers, is conducting the surveys, which are available for many ratings on Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) at www.nko.navy.mil

The survey results will allow the Navy to validate occupational data -- the actual work Sailors perform -- with the goal of capturing the tasks and associated jobs in each rating and specialty. By doing so, the Navy will gain a broader picture of the work Sailors perform, and the NAVMAC team will be able to identify similar functions and consolidate training, saving money as a result.

"It's extremely important for Sailors to participate so that there can be an accurate collection of information. The collected data affects the future of the Navy and how the Navy will classify the workforce of the future," said Lt. Cmdr. Brian Willemssen, program manager, NAVMAC Occupational Standards at Navy Manpower Analysis Center in Millington, Tenn. "Currently, the Navy defines work only associated with ratings. Using the data developed through the survey, we will be able to define all Navy work, irrespective of rating."

Since being announced in April, thousands of Sailors have logged onto their Learning Center page on NKO to complete their surveys, spending about 30 to 45 minutes on each. To participate, Sailors need to have been serving in their rating for 90 days or more, and should select jobs that most closely correlate to their current assignment. Individuals serving in specialty jobs will complete only specialty surveys, not those of their source ratings. These include instructor duty and Recruit Division Commander, for example.

While several rating surveys are still open, several have closed including Legalman, Master at Arms and Explosive Ordnance Disposal/Navy Diver. Occupational data for these ratings has already been validated,

meaning NAVMAC now can fully identify the jobs associated with these ratings. That is the next step in matching specific Sailors with specific skills to specific jobs vice assigning Sailors based on rating alone. “Because of these surveys, the Navy's current Occupational Standards will be revamped. The data will provide us the means to define a job structure compliant with industry best practices, providing common ground to map military work with comparable commercial work,” said Willemssen. “What that means for Sailors is that it will help to track their progress throughout their careers and to make their service time more closely correlate with the private sector.”

While many Sailors have completed surveys, Willemssen said NAVMAC needs even more participation. “I can’t emphasize enough the importance of completing these surveys. I realize this takes time out from busy schedules, but these surveys will provide validated occupational data, which is the foundation for the Navy’s move toward the HR System that will be used in the future,” he said.

Commands with limited Internet access can obtain surveys on CD from the respective Learning Center. For technical difficulties, NAVMAC has set up a help desk (7:30 to 4 p.m. Central, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays). If calling after hours, individuals are encouraged to leave a voice message or an email including their name, command and contact information, as well as the issue. Help desk representatives are HMCS(SW) Clyde Fischer; e-mail: clyde.fischer@navy.mil (901) 874-6372 (DSN 882) and Ms. Linda Blackmon; e-mail: linda.blackmon@navy.mil phone: (901) 874-6353 (DSN 882).